"Everyone has the right to an education."

The Global Teacher

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The Global Campaign for Education — Educate to End Poverty

The Canadian Teachers' Federation (CTF) and OXFAM Canada invite teachers in every province and territory to bring the world of education into their classrooms during the week of April 24 to 30, as part of the 6th annual Global Action Week, which is being marked around the world. Be part of the action to "Educate to End Poverty."

Be part of the message.

The Global Campaign for Education (GCE) is calling on governments to live up to their promises made on education five years ago when they committed to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) for ending world poverty. These MDGs set out eight priority actions to halve world poverty by 2015. This year, governments will break the first of their promises — to get as many girls as boys into classrooms by 2005, and their failure will cost lives. This year alone, one million children will die, who would have lived if governments had kept their 2005 promise on girls' education. Why? Visit **www.campaignforeducation.org**.

"Unless we address the disparities of wealth between countries of the world, and the growing disparities among people within all countries, our world will never be secure."

Terry Price, President, Canadian Teachers' Federation

Let's get together and send the message that "Educating kids to end poverty" is the answer. Involve your classroom.

Participate in the **Send My Friend to School** activity.

"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world ... Sometimes it falls upon a generation to be great. You can be that great generation."

Nelson Mandela
Nobel Peace Prize winner, 1993

Classroom Involvement —Send My Friend to School

We are encouraging a broad participation of teachers across the country in Global Action Week, April 24-30. The "Send My Friend to School" activity is organized by the Global Campaign for Education (GCE) to symbolize the 105 million out-of-school children and 860 million illiterate adults. Throughout the world, children and adults will make "cut-out" friends out of paper or bristol board. The goal is to make 6 million cut-out friends worldwide. The aim is to present politicians and leaders with many of these "Friends" to exert pressure for more money and political leadership to achieve the education Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). **Be part of the message.**

To date, Canada is among the hundred countries, alongside Japan, Spain, the USA, India, Senegal, Argentina, and Pakistan, who have committed to participating actively in Global Action Week events. The Canadian Teachers' Federation will be presenting a first round of cut-out friends to government officials in Ottawa at a special breakfast on Parliament Hill on April 19.
Be part of the 6 million.

"We must do more than talk about our future ... We must start to create it, now."

Koffi Annan, Secretary General of the United Nations

Visit the Global Action Week section of the CTF web site: www.ctf-fce.ca

What are the eight Millennium Development Goals?

In 2000, 191 governments reaffirmed the United Nations' Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to be achieved on a worldwide basis by the year 2015. Canada was one of those countries. The eight MDGs are:

1. Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger.
2. **Achieve universal primary education.**
3. **Promote gender equality and empower women.**
4. Reduce child mortality.
5. Improve maternal health.
6. Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases.
7. Ensure environmental sustainability.
8. Develop a global partnership for development.

This year's campaign is focusing on Millennium Development Goals 2 and 3. At a national level, civil society will press for the specific changes that are most urgently needed to progress on the education MDGs.

Did you know that ...

- 1 billion people in the world are living on less than $1 per day, and half of the world's total population, or 3 billion people, survive on less than $2 per day.
- 105 million children are denied their right to an education, and that 65 million of those children are girls.
- In the Asia-Pacific region, 127 million children under the age of 14 leave school to become child labourers, and in Sub-Saharan Africa, 48 million children work.
- It is estimated that 50 million out-of-school children live in countries that are suffering through war, or recovering from recent wars; over 10 million children have been psychologically traumatized by armed conflict.
- Many children living in remote and rural areas have great difficulty getting to school.
- Rural schools often have an acute shortage of qualified teachers, which means students are trying to learn in over-crowded classrooms.
- Street children range from 3 to 18 years-old and rarely attend school.
- 40% of street children are homeless, while the other 60% work on the streets to support their families.
- An estimated 246 million children are engaged in exploitative child labour. Almost three-quarters of them work in hazardous environments such as mines or factories, or with dangerous substances such as chemicals and agricultural pesticides.
- Over 5 million of the children who are engaged in exploitative child labour, work under especially horrific circumstances, including the virtual slavery of bonded labour.

Are NATIONS keeping their promises on POVERTY?

The targets on poverty are to halve the proportion of people whose income is less than one dollar a day, and to halve the proportion of people who suffer from hunger. If current trends continue, such as the lack of substantial action to implement commitments from governments around the world, we won't be able to meet this promise until 2040.

At current rates, the proportion of people living on less than $1 a day will have increased by 2015 in Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America, the Caribbean, Central and Eastern Europe and countries of the former Soviet Union. Furthermore, although malnourishment is declining almost everywhere, only in Latin America and the Caribbean is the target likely to be met.

Are NATIONS keeping their promises on EDUCATION?

If current trends continue, such as the lack of substantial action to implement commitments from governments around the world, we won't be able to meet this promise until 2090. At present rates only 30 million children, of the targeted 105 million, will have obtained a primary education by 2015. Children burdened with poverty are often not aware of the value and relevance of education to their lives.

A good first step is that some governments are abolishing school fees for primary level students, but that brings other problems. With a high influx of children becoming students, there are not enough teachers and schools, which means overcrowded classrooms, sometimes as many as 100 students per classroom. Not having enough teachers also means that schools end up with under-qualified people teaching, and some remote rural schools end up without teachers at all.

For Students: How do you fit in?

You can help remind our government that we were one of the nations that promised to see the eight Millennium Development Goals through. Get involved in the "Send My Friend to School" campaign by making your own "cut-out" friend.

You can make a paper "cut-out" friend (life size or smaller) with a message that says all children and youth deserve an education. You can make your paper friend out of bristol board or paper or cloth. You can name your friend Basma, Salama, Genevieve, Srinivas or Carla, or any of our Innu friends in Natuashish, Labrador, that we highlight in our PowerPoint presentation on our web site. Perhaps your teachers, friends and families have stories from overseas or Canadian experiences; or you can make a friend representing all others who are missing an education. You can also explore the Global Campaign for Education site (**www.campaignforeducation.org**) for additional examples.

Visit the CTF web site to download our Lesson Plans, our PowerPoints and our profiles: **www.ctf-fce.ca**

"There can be no more vital issue on this earth than ending poverty, which destroys the lives of children."

June Callwood, Writer and Co-Chair, Campaign Against Child Poverty

Be part of the 6 million.

How can my "cut-out" friend make a difference?

Some of the friends will be presented to Members of Parliament in Ottawa, or be part of an international forum on "Educating to End Poverty" in Toronto in April. Some of the friends will be sent to the Global Campaign for Education in Brussels, Belgium, where the GCE will be displaying friends from across the world at:

- The G8 Summit in Gleneagles, Scotland, in July 2005, and
- The United Nations Summit on Millennium Development Goals in September 2005.

Be part of the 6 million.
Make a difference.

"The pace of action is too slow and it is the poor that are paying the price."

Stephen Lewis, United Nations Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Africa

Additional Educational Resources:

http://www.unac.org/learn/wwwp/ —"A World Without Weapons" is a disarmament education program where students will gain an overall understanding of the major issues relating to disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons, the motivations for armament and disarmament, and the process by which the international community, regional organizations and the UN encourage the practice of disarmament and non-proliferation of weapons.

Global Education Network: (http://www.global-ed.org) offers field-tested lesson plans with resources attached on Fair Trade and Food in both French and English — "Chocolate and Human Rights" (grades 6 -10) at **http://www.global-ed.org/cu-chocolate.pdf** and "Bananas Unpeeled" (grades 10 and up) at **http://www.global-ed.org/bananas-unpeeled.pdf**. Teachers, students and citizens' groups love having everything at their finger-tips, and consumers are challenged to change their habits for the benefit of all.

http://www.tsunamicurriculum.org/ — Sally Ann Gibson, a resource teacher at Manitoba's Birds Hill School, has created "Wake of the Wave," a curriculum guide for educators wanting to discuss the recent disaster with their students. The guide is aimed at students between Grades 3 and 7 and includes background information on tsunamis, the region, discussion questions, and activities.

MAKE POVERTY HISTORY

MORE AND BETTER AID · TRADE JUSTICE · CANCEL THE DEBT · END CHILD POVERTY IN CANADA

"Like slavery and apartheid, poverty is not natural. It is man-made and it can be overcome and eradicated by the actions of human beings. Overcoming poverty is not a gesture of charity. It is an act of justice. It is the protection of a fundamental human right, the right to dignity and a decent life. While poverty persists, there is no true freedom."

*Nobel prize winner Nelson Mandela offered the following remarks as he officially launched the **Make Foverty History** campaign in London, on February 3, 2005, in front of 22,000 supporters.*

At the start of the 21st century, 1.2 billion people live in abject poverty, most of them women. More than 800 million people go to bed hungry and 50,000 people die every day from poverty-related causes. It doesn't have to be this way. If we choose — if we have the will to act — we can make poverty history.

Poverty is a violation of human rights on a massive scale. Nearly five years ago, all members of the United Nations committed to "spare no effort" in tackling poverty by adopting the Millennium Declaration. Governments also launched the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) to meet minimum targets to reduce poverty, hunger, discrimination against women, and to **achieve universal primary education** by 2015.

But the pace of action is too slow. If we hold the present course, we will fail to meet these targets. And the poor will pay the price. Launched in over 50 countries, including Canada, the **Make Poverty History** campaign underlines that through action for trade justice, debt cancellation and more and better aid, we can make poverty history in 2005.

Canada's campaign to end poverty, **Make Poverty History**, calls for urgent and meaningful policy change. Here's what we want in 14 words: More and Better Aid. Trade Justice. Cancel the Debt. End Child Poverty in Canada.

Debt and Schools

In February of 2005, Oxfam released a joint agency study on debt that found, "In 2002, low-income countries paid out $39 billion in debt repayments to rich country creditors — the equivalent of $100 million every day. In that same year, despite the billions living in poverty, the millions out of school, and the thousands dying daily, they received only $17 billion in grant aid."

Here in Canada the campaign was launched on February 11, with the backing of actor Mary Walsh, singer Tom Cochrane, Olympian Anna van der Kamp and United Nations special envoy Stephen Lewis.

"I believe that eradicating world poverty is the key to making sure that communities can best cope with disease, intolerance and natural disasters."

Steven Page, The Barenaked Ladies

TOGETHER WE CAN MAKE POVERTY HISTORY!

Both the Canadian Teachers' Federation and Oxfam Canada are active members in this campaign. We need your voice to add to the worldwide chorus. Find out how you can support the global campaign at **www.makepovertyhistory.ca**.
Together, we can make poverty history.